Cars purchased by Government Departments

2059. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have instructed that all Government Departments and Public Sector Undertakings must purchase Ambassador cars only;

(b) if so, reasons therefor;

(c) what is Government's assessment regarding comparative fuel efficiency of this car; and

(d) whether various departments and Public Sector Undertakings have assessed the comparative maintenance cost of this automobile?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) According to the existing instructions Ministries/Departments and Public Sector Undertakings are permitted to purchase Ambassador, Premier Padmini and Maruti cars (800 cc), including Vans and Gypsies. Instructions have also been issued that expensive cars like Contessa and Premier NE-118 and air-conditioned cars should not be purchased.

(d) The information is not centrally maintained. This will have to be collected from various Ministries/Departments/ Attached and subordinate offices and Public Sector Undertakings. The time and labour involved in collecting this information may not be commensurate with the result to be achieved especially taking into account the fact that cars other than the Ambassador can also be purchased.

Setting up of task force to implement JPC Report

2060. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minitser of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a task force to implement the report of JPC on scam; if so, what is its composition; and

(b) what follow up action has been taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. ABRAR AHMAD): (a) and (b). A Committee comprising of Finance Secretary, Secretary (Revenue) Secretary (Expenditure), Special Secretary (Banking) and Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India has been constituted in the Ministry of Finance to process various recommendations concerning Ministry of Finance. An inter-Ministerial Committee has also been constituted under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary for processing the recommendations other than those which are the concern of Ministry of Finance. The 'Action Taken Report' is under preparation and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Regarding rationalisation of tax system

2061. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to rationalise the tax system by widening the tax base and reducing the tax rates to a moderate level;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that the process of widening the tax base was initiated in 1992-93 and it was not reflected in the subsequent year;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) what measures Government propose to take for uniform application of law through the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (d). Rationalisation of the tax system is an on-going process. This process includes widening the tax base and rationa-